

# CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

## WHAT IS A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE?

Classical languages are **ancient languages** with **independent traditions** and a **rich literary history** that continue to influence various literary styles and philosophical texts.

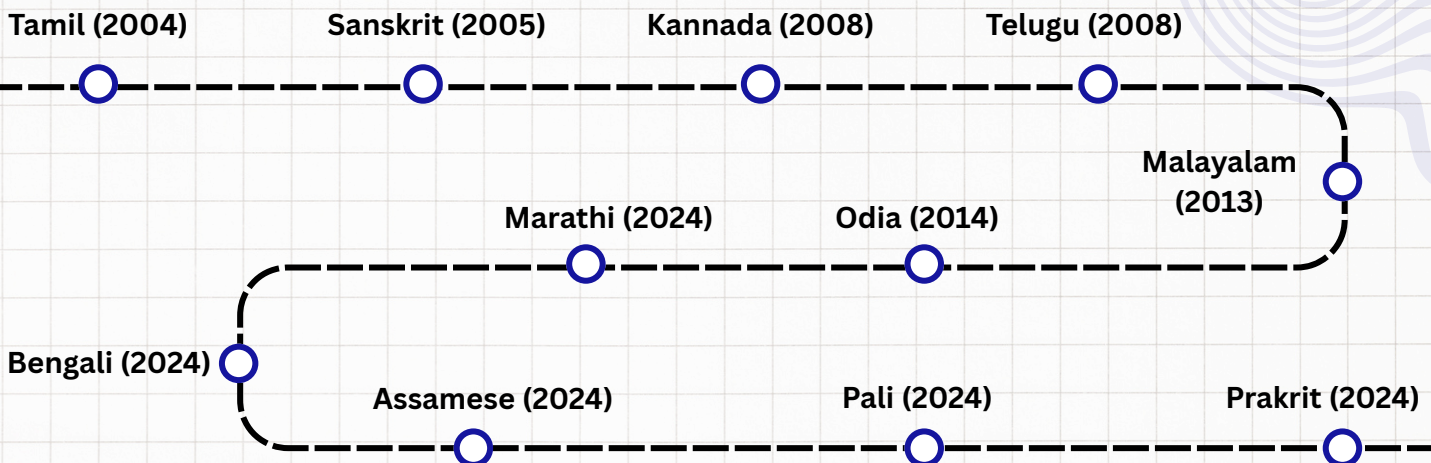


## CRITERIA FOR DECLARING A LANGUAGE AS 'CLASSICAL'

The recognition of a classical language is based on criteria established by a **Linguistic Experts Committee**. They are:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of **1500-2000 Years**
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a **heritage by generations of speakers**
- **Knowledge texts** include prose, poetry, and epic; political or **inscriptional evidence**.

## LIST OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES



## BENEFITS OF BEING A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

- The **Ministry of Education** offers benefits to promote classical languages.
- Two major **annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.
- **Centre of Excellence** for Studies in Classical Languages
- The **University Grants Commission** is requested to create **professional chairs** for classical languages in **Central Universities**.